

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

UNCLAS STATE 148448

FOLLOWING SENT AMEMBASSY BANGKOK INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
FROM SECSTATE WASHDC 27 JUL 73:

QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 148448

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NAR, PFOR, TH, BM, LA, VS, HK

SUBJ: SUMMARY OF WOLFF REPORT

REF : BANGKOK 11283 (NOTAL)

1. REPRESENTATIVE LESTER L. WOLFF'S REPORT "THE NARCOTICS  
SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA" WAS RELEASED JULY 26;  
FIVE COPIES POUCHED BANGKOK, TWO TO RANGOON AND ONE TO  
VIENTIANE. ADDITIONAL COPIES CAN BE PROVIDED AS MORE  
BECOME AVAILABLE.

2. REPORT IS TWENTY-TWO PAGES LONG AND CONTAINS SECTIONS,  
IN ADDITION TO APPENDICES, ON "THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE"  
(BURMA, LAOS, THAILAND) AND "OTHER ASIAN NATIONS"  
(VIETNAM, KOREA, PHILIPPINES, JAPAN, HONG KONG AND PRC).  
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SUB-SECTION ON THAILAND (FIVE PAGES) IS LONGEST.

3. IN LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL REP WOLFF STATES THAT  
SITUATION DESCRIBED IN REPORT EXISTED AT TIME OF

INVESTIGATION (JANUARY 24-FEBRUARY 2, 1973) AND "I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THERE IS GROWING EVIDENCE THAT SITUATION IS CHANGING AND THAT GOVERNMENTS IN AREA, PARTICULARLY THAILAND AND BURMA, ARE MAKING CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, ALTHOUGH MUCH REMAINS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED."

4. UNDER BURMA SUB-SECTION, REPORT

(A) REFERS OPTIMISTICALLY TO ARREST OF LO HSING-HAN BY THAI AND REPORTED CAPTURE OF HIS BROTHER BY BURMESE AS KIND OF COOPERATIVE ACTION REQUIRED IF INTERNATIONAL EFFORT AGAINST NARCOTICS IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL;

(B) NOTES THAT SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF U.S. ARMS HAVE FALLEN INTO HANDS OF INDIGENOUS INSURGENT GROUPS THROUGH OPIUM TRAFFIC AND ARE SOURCE OF IRRITATION IN BURMESE-U.S. RELATIONS;

(C) ASSERTS THAT U.S. HAS LITTLE INFLUENCE IN BURMA AND THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WHILE CORDIAL ARE RESTRAINED (FOOTNOTE REFERS TO BURMESE REQUEST FOR U.S. HELICOPTERS TO SURVEY REMOTE GROWING AREAS BUT STATES REQUEST WAS WITHDRAWN AFTER SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS);

(D) CLAIMS THAT INCREASING LOCAL ADDICTION AND CONCERN ABOUT BECOMING FOCUS OF INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION HAS LED GUB TO ADOPT MORE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE, AT LEAST TOWARD UN;

(E) STATES THAT REPORTEDLY US OFFICIALS IN BURMA SUPPLY GUB WITH INFORMATION ON NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND URGES THIS EXCHANGE TO CONTINUE;

(F) CONCLUDES THAT MUCH MORE BE DONE TO PREVENT FURTHER INCREASE IN POPPY CULTIVATION AND CALLS ON MORE UNCLASSIFIED

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HELP FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO INDUCE GUB TO COOPERATE IN RESTRAINING PRODUCTION OF OPIUM.

5. UNDER LAOS SUB-SECTION, REPORT

(A) ASSERTS THAT US EFFORTS TO GET LAO TO HALVE PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING APPEAR TO HAVE SOME LIMITED SUCCESS;

(B) STATES THAT 1971 LAW BANNING OPIUM PRODUCTION, USE AND TRAFFICKING AT LEAST CREATED ATMOSPHERE FOR SHARPLY INCREASED ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS;

(C) NOTES THAT LAO HAMPERED IN ITS EFFORTS BY LACK

OF CONTROL OVER NON-DUTY ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN HIGH-RANKING MILITARY COMMANDERS;

(D) URGES CONTINUED PRESSURE BY US OFFICIALS FOR CUSTOMS CONTROL OVER ALL MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND PERSONNEL AND PRAISES US HELP IN FORMING NEW NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT

AGENCY IN LAOS SAYING SUCH COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

6. UNDER THAI SUB-SECTION, REPORT

(A) STATES THAT THAILAND IS KEY TO NARCOTICS TRAFFIC IN SEA AS OPIUM-PRODUCING NATION AND AS MAJOR CONDUIT FOR OPIUM FLOW AND ITS DERIVATIVES ULTIMATELY TO U.S.;

(B) CITES US OFFICIALS' STATEMENTS THAT THAI POLICE INTERCEPTIONS ARE FEW AND ATTRIBUTES ENFORCEMENT PROBLEM TO CORRUPTION AND LACK OF LACK OF COOPERATION AMONG MIDDLE AND LOWER ECHELON THAI LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS;

(C) SAYS REP WOLFF HOPES IT WILL BE UNNECESSARY FOR HIM TO REINTRODUCE AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT TO SUSPEND ECON AND MIL ASSISTANCE TO THAIS FOR THEIR LACK OF EFFECTIVE ACTION TO STOP PRODUCTION AND UNCLASSIFIED

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TRAFFICKING OF OPIATES;

(D) ASSERTS THAT INCREASED NUMBER OF THAI SEIZURES RESULT OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY US (NOT THAI) AGENTS AND THAT SEIZURES HAVE NOT KEPT PACE WITH INCREASED VOLUME OF HEROIN TRAFFIC;

(E) COVERS IN DETAIL MARCH 1972 BURNING OF 26 TONS OF OPIUM REFERRING TO WOLFF'S ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN VERIFICATION, THE JACK ANDERSON ACCUSATION THAT ONLY 20 PERCENT OF AMOUNT WAS OPIUM AND TO AGREEMENT WITH CIF TO GET THEM OUT OF OPIUM GROWING BUSINESS. SAID MANY QUESTIONS STILL SURROUND THIS PREEMPTIVE BUY DECISION. CLAIMS THAT THIS RECENT INVESTIGATION SUGGESTS CIF STILL ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING OF OPIATES AND THAT EVEN 27TH TON OF OPIUM NOT BURNED BECAUSE NOT IN ORIGINAL AGREEMENT. CONCLUDES THIS INCIDENT IS REPRESENTATIVE OF ERRORS IN JUDGMENT BECAUSE US OFFICIALS IN FIELD UNWILLING TO PRESS THAI SUFFICIENTLY TO STOP ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTICS BUT INSTEAD USG HAS AWARDED POLICE DIRGEN PRASERT A PLAQUE TO "ENCOURAGE COOPERATION"--AN EVENT DESCRIBED AS A "PUBLIC RELATIONS FLUFF."

(F) QUOTES NELSON GROSS' AND SECRETARY ROGERS CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY IN PART TO DEMONSTRATE THAT USG NOT FULLY INFORMED OF ACTUAL THAI SITUATION IN 1972;

(G) DESCRIBES AID-ASSISTED EFFORTS TO CONDUCT AERIAL SURVEY OF THAI POPPY GROWING AREA IN OCT. 1972 BUT BECAUSE OF DELAY AND FOOT DRAGGING OF UNCOOPERATIVE THAI OFFICIALS MISSION WAS IMPOSSIBLE; EMBASSY SHOULD HAVE PRESSED HARDER WITH THAI TO EFFECT IT;

(H) DRAWS ATTENTION TO TRAWLER TRAFFIC IN NARCOTICS AND STATES THAT DESPITE RELIABLE INFORMANTS, SOPHISTICATED DETECTION DEVICES AND SUPERIOR PERSONNEL, NARCOTICS FLOW CONTINUES;

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(I) REFERS BRIEFLY TO DRUG SITUATION AS IT APPLIES TO US DEPENDENTS AND SERVICEMEN AND CALLS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE US MOVES TO ELIMINATE DRUG ABUSE;

(J) CONCLUDES THAT ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT IN THAILAND RELATIVELY DISAPPOINTING AND THAT RTG IS NOT MOST EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT IN SEA TO END FLOW OF OPIUM THROUGH THAI BORDERS AND PORTS---US MUST EXERT MORE PRESSURE IT STATES, TO SEVER "THAI CONNECTION."

7. MAJOR SECTION ON "OTHER ASIAN NATIONS" DESCRIBES "EXCELLENT" COOPERATION BETWEEN VIETNAMESE AND US OFFICIALS BUT CALLS FOR CONTINUED PRESSURE TO MAINTAIN STRONG ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS THERE; STATES PROBLEM IN KOREA CENTERED MAINLY IN FOREIGN COMMUNITY AND THAT US GETTING EXCELLENT COOPERATION FROM ROKG; CASTS DOUBT ON ABILITY PHILIPPINES TO CONTROL GROWING POTENTIAL PROBLEM; PRAISES JAPANESE FOR ENFORCEMENT MEASURES BUT HOPES EXPORT OF ACETIC ANHYDRIDE TO "HEROIN LABS OF FAR EAST" WILL BE STOPPED; CALLS FOR EXPANDED BNDD STAFF IN HONG KONG, AND URGES US OFFICIALS THERE TO GAIN FULL COOPERATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO STOP REFINING AND TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTICS; CONCLUDES THERE IS NO HARD EVIDENCE THAT PRC INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL OPIUM TRADE.

8. IN CONCLUSION SECTION, REPORT FOCUSES ON NEED FOR EXPANDING US ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS CALLING FOR MORE PERSONNEL, MONEY AND EQUIPMENT TO "WIPE THIS MENACE FROM OUR SOCIETY." ROGERS UNQUOTE ROGERS

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